

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 19-20: DISCUSSION
OF TINDEMANS REPORT PROPOSALS ON US/EC RELATIONS

REFS: EC BRUSSELS 7187

1. AN EC COUNCIL SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT THE DISCUSSION OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN RESTRICTED SESSION DURING THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 19-20, FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON US/EC RELATIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE MINISTERS RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT FROM THE GROUP OF EC EXPERTS CURRENTLY STUDYING THE TINDEMANS REPORT (WHICH ADDRESSES WILL RECALL INCLUDES IN ITS CHAPTER ON EXTERNAL RELATIONS THE PROPOSAL THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DELEGATE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS TO HOLD TALKS WITH THE US ON THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF US/EC RELATIONS). OUR SOURCE REPORTS THAT DURING THE JULY 19 DISCUSSION FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES SPOKE OUT AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL AND THAT THE OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS WERE SIMILARLY NEGATIVE. SAVUAGNARGUES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A SINGLE EC SPOKESMAN. HE POINTED TO

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THE FACT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER, IN HIS RECENT LONDON SPEECH,

HAD PLACED CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE EXISTING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND EC AND NOTED THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME FOR THE EC TO ADOPT AN INDEPENDENT POLICY REGARDING ATLANTIC RELATIONS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE NO MAJOR OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE US, THAT US/EC RELATIONS WERE ON SOLID TERMS, THAT THE PRESENT US/EC CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WAS GOING WELL, AND THAT THERE WAS THEREFORE NO NEED FOR A SPECIAL SPOKESMAN TO DISCUSS US/EC RELATIONS AT THIS TIME.

2. OUR SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT DURING THE ENSUING DISCUSSION, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES OBSERVED THAT THE US TENDS TO PICK AND CHOOSE ON ISSUES IT IS WILLING TO DISCUSS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THOSE WHICH IT WILL DISCUSS ONLY WITH THE MEMBER STATES. THEREFORE, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE EC TO EMPHASIZE AND ENCOURAGE CONSULTATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THIS OBSERVATION AND THE DUTCH PRESIDENCY WAS ASKED TO DRAFT A PROPOSAL REFLECTING THESE THOUGHTS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CONSIDER DURING THEIR GYMnich-STYLE MEETING IN THE NETHERLANDS ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12.

3. A UK PERMREP SOURCE HAS CONFIRMED TO US THE GENERAL LINES OF THE FOREGOING INFORMATION, NOTING THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT AMONG THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EC AND THE US AND THAT THE ONLY VOICE RAISED IN FAVOR OF TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL WAS THAT OF TINDEMANS' FOREIGN MINISTER, VAN ELSLANDE.

4. PLEASE PROTECT INFORMATION AND SOURCES. HINTON

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